



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shunpei Yamazaki et al. Art Unit : 2813
Serial No. : 10/022,262 Examiner : David L. Hogans
Filed : December 20, 2001
Title : LIGHT EMITTING DEVICE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF MARCH 12, 2004

In reply to the Office Action of March 12, 2004, applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-66 and 77-86 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7, 13, 21, 29, 37, 52, 79 and 83 being independent. Claims 21-66 and 77-86 have been withdrawn from consideration, leaving claims 1-20 under consideration.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Izumi and Wu. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Kimura, Izumi, Wu, nor any proper combination of the three describes or suggests a conductor that comprises an Ag (i.e., silver) particle and has a plated film on its upper and side surfaces, as recited in each of the independent claims.

As noted in the prior response, Kimura, though describing the use of silver beads to connect wiring lines together, nowhere describes or suggests a conductor that comprises a silver particle and has a plated film on its upper and side surfaces. As also noted in the prior response, Izumi similarly fails to describe or suggest such a conductor.

Apparently recognizing these failures of Kimura and Izumi, the Examiner turns to Wu at column 11, lines 21-31, which states that conductive metal address lines may be screen printed from a Ag/Pt alloy paste. The Examiner then states that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Kimura by incorporating conductive metal address lines made by screen printing a Ag/Pt paste, as taught by Wu, to produce address lines by a cost effective method.

Initially, applicant notes that nothing in Wu indicates that the screen printing technique is a particularly cost effective method of creating address lines, and that nothing in Wu or Kimura indicates that the screen printing technique is more cost effective than the techniques used by Kimura. As such, applicant disagrees both with the Examiner's premise that the proposed modification would have resulted in a cost reduction and with the Examiner's conclusion that either or both of Kimura and Wu would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to make the modification in order to obtain such a cost reduction.

While Wu does make some mention of costs, these are in the context of criticizing the use of thin film techniques, such as are described by Kimura, to form laminate EL devices (see col. 1, lines 10-15), and noting that fabricating electrode patterns in transparent conductive materials can be expensive (see col. 4, lines 11-15). Wu nowhere states that the use of screen printing to form address lines is a cost effective technique.

Moreover, Wu teaches the use of screen printing in forming the conductive metal address lines constituting the rear electrode 14 and the transparent electrode 24 included in an EL laminate 10. By contrast, Kimura is not directed to forming an EL device or an EL laminate such as is described by Wu. As such, since Wu and Kimura are directed to formation of different structures, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Kimura to employ the noted aspect of Wu.

Accordingly, absent impermissible hindsight reconstruction of the invention, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine Kimura, Izumi and Wu in the manner recited in the rejection. As such, the rejection of claims 1-20 should be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Attorney's Docket No.: 12732-086001 / US5370

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/11/04


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